

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM

At the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead

PRESENT: Councillor D. Cornish, Chair. Councillor G. Jukes OBE, Vice Chair.
Councillors E. Allen; S. Gurney; C. Mortimer; S. Weeks & R. Woof.

271/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Grimshaw & S. Bromley.

272/2023 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

273/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023 were agreed and were signed by Cllr. Cornish.

274/2023 MATTERS ARISING AND OTHER MATTERS

The Committee noted the absence of Mr J Alexander, Footpath warden, and requested that the Planning officer make contact in the New Year.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022/23

Deputy Clerk to confirm spend to date.

275/2023 VICE CHAIR STANDS DOWN

Due to commitments elsewhere within the Council Cllr Jukes requested to stand down as vice chair of the rights of way committee. Chris Mortimer offered to take his place, and the committee voted unanimously to accept this. Chris Mortimer was therefore duly appointed as vice-chair of the Finchampstead parish council rights of way committee.

276/2023 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

The Rights of Way Project List was circulated. The List was prepared with reference to the Council's CIL Project List and the WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) which includes projects put forward by the Ramblers.

The Project List was reviewed and will be updated and circulated.

Cllr Cornish to work with the Deputy Clerk to update the list.

The committee agreed that each member would be allocated one or more rights of way over which they would have a 'watching brief'. Cllr Cornish to complete this.

Priorities for the Committee were agreed as follows, with actions detailed in the Project List:

- **Access Improvements**
 - Stile replacement on Footpath 14 – this will be put on hold as this may be redirected around the field.
 - Stile replacement on Footpath 3 will not be actioned as the landowner does not want the change.

- **Small improvement projects**

- Resolving hedge encroachment on Footpath 8 – The committee will ask John Alexander the footpath warden to visit the site twice a year to cut back the hedge.

- **Major projects**

- Progressing the completion of the future nature reserves at Fleet Hill and Manor Farms, east and west of Longwater Road, owned by Cemex UK Ltd. To include the completion of new rights of way on the sites and linking to the wider network and securing the future management of the reserves.

The next meeting with Cemex will be on site in March 2024. Little progress has been made to date and it is unclear what vision exists from Cemex and other parties. Cllr Jukes to organise a meeting of the working group to brainstorm what the committee would like to achieve.

Fleet hill paths have not been adopted by WBC and therefore there are no restrictions on access which risk damage to the paths from inappropriate usage.

Manor Farm footpaths should be ready by summer 2024 when WBC will need to adopt them.

Cllr Weeks to organise a meeting with Andy Glencross at WBC to confirm where they are with enforcing the Fleet Hill planning application and adopting the rights of way.

- FP33 at Longwater Lane needs to be upgraded to a bridleway. This is a priority project and a meeting will be scheduled with WBC to discuss this and funding. Church Path needs drainage work, as part of this work. A survey is required to determine what work is needed and to get an indication of what it will cost.
- Re designation of FP17A to a Bridleway and install a Pegasus crossing to allow horses to go into Fleet Hill and the provision of a car park just off Longwater Road. WBC are understood to have a CIL Budget allocation for this. This needs to be confirmed – Cllr Cornish to discuss with Andy Glencross.
- Re designation of FP29 to a bridleway. An agreed strategic plan is needed to decide and implement the upgrade of appropriate Footpaths to Bridleways. The Rights of way implementation plan (ROWIP) should be used as a starting point.
- Re designation of FP20 to a bridleway. Confirmation is needed from the applicant and WBC as to whether this is on their list, if not we will remove it from the committees project list.
- Reinstatement of the missing link between bridlepaths 34 and 26. Progress is needed on the establishment of the 'missing link' on Wick Hill by means of a 'Deed of Dedication'. Cllr Cornish to discuss with Andy Glencross at WBC.
- Cycle route to Wokingham linking with Finchampstead via Nashgrove Lane. An update is needed from WBC on the status of Tan House Bridge before

further work on the Finchampstead – Wokingham cycle path.

277/2023 CIRCULAR WALKS

Proposed Finchampstead to Crowthorne circular walk

The new Circular Walk needs to be completed; the mapping remains a challenge. It also needs writing up, points of interest and more photos adding and improved waymarking in Ambarrow Woods. Discussion needs to be had with the National Trust as this is their land. Cllr Woof to lead on this with the assistance of Cllr Gurney.

278/2023 CONDITION / MAINTENANCE OF RIGHTS OF WAY

Current known issues:

FP13 Longwater Rd to Cricket Hill is overgrown and slippery, the sign at Cricket Hill end has been damaged. Cllr Cornish to discuss the maintenance with John Alexander.

278/2023 FORUM

279/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 26 March 2024.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – RoW 6 December 2023

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
274/2023	Contact John Alexander	Planning officer
274/2023	Confirm expenditure to date	Deputy Clerk
276/2023	Update the project list	DC/Deputy Clerk
276/2023	<p>Progress agreed priority projects as detailed in Project List FP8 Cutting back of hedges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Alexander to carry out maintenance. <p>Cemex nature reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule a meeting of the CEMEX working group. - Schedule a meeting with Andy Glencross to discuss the Fleet Hill planning application and adopting the ROW. <p>Schedule a meeting with WBC to discuss FP33 upgrade to Bridleway.</p> <p>Discuss the re designation of FP17A to a Bridleway with Andy Glencross.</p> <p>Agree a strategic plan to upgrade footpaths to bridleways.</p> <p>FP20 – Clarification is needed from the applicant and WBC.</p> <p>Discussion with Andy Glencross about the reinstatement of the missing link between bridlepaths 34 and 26.</p> <p>Update from WBC on the Cycle route to Wokingham.</p>	<p>DC/JA</p> <p>GJ SW</p> <p>DC</p> <p>DC</p> <p>All</p> <p>DC</p> <p>DC</p> <p>DC</p>
277/2023	<p>Complete the circular walk.</p> <p>Replace / add 'no cycling no horses' signs as required</p>	<p>RW/SG</p> <p>All</p>
278/2023	Maintenance required at FP13.	DC/JA